

NSC BRIEFING

DATE: 1-21-80 REVIEWER: 372344

4 December 1957

SITUATION IN EAST GERMANY

- I. East German Communist government is adopting harsher internal policies, which may lead to trouble. These policies include:
 - A. Actual tightening of security controls with view to stopping refugee flow (5,000 per week average rose to 6,200 during past week - 25% is of military age group).
 - B. Threats of wage cuts, raising of work norms, and intensified agricultural collectivization.
- II. Decision reflects Soviet determination to crack down on dissident forces unleashed by 20th party congress policies and to resume greater repression under Stalinist Ulbricht, who, according to many observers, emerged from the recent Moscow meeting as the number three man in the Communist world.
 - A. Soviets also want greater contribution from GDR to Bloc economy.
- III. This tougher policy will probably lead to increased tensions within East Germany.
 - A. Similar norm increases and wage cuts led to the riots in June 1953.
 - B. But no major upheaval likely as long as 350,000 Soviet troops remain.
- IV. By-product of situation has been increased harassment of West Berlin. Including tighter controls on Berlin sector borders, searches of border crossers to stop currency and goods smuggling, and seizures of goods shipments between West Germany and West Berlin.
 - A. However, no evidence that Soviets intend to interfere with Allied access to Berlin, though they continue using East Germans in attempt to erode Allied position there.